



EG&G ROCKY FLATS, INC.  
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January 15, 1993

93-RF-0690

Richard J. Schassburger  
Acting Director  
Environmental Restoration Division  
DOE, RFO

Attn: Jen Pepe

BACKGROUND SOILS CHARACTERIZATION - RLB-029-93

I have received your correspondence (00201) dated January 6, 1993 regarding characterization of background soils at Rocky Flats. In response to your request, a meeting was held on January 7, 1993 between Jen Pepe of the Department of Energy (DOE) and my staff to discuss background soil issues.

Your letter indicates a misunderstanding which I wish to correct. The statement "...that EG&G [has] chosen not to comply with a DOE directive to develop a background soil characterization project," is incorrect. EG&G held two scoping meetings on this issue in 1992 and proposed a \$2.2M background soil characterization program (referenced in my letter, RLB-0729-92, 92-RF-13665). We did not receive funding for this program in the FY93 budget.

Your January 6, 1993 letter establishes a priority for a background soils program, but did *not* request implementation of the \$2.2M project mentioned above. Your letter narrowed the requested scope of the project to the collection of soils data as required by the IAG and as needed to support EPA/CDH approved OU workplans. The \$2.2M program included soil series mapping and would have done more characterization work than required by the IAG.

In answer to your specific question, it is my opinion that soil data sufficient to support the IAG can be collected for less than the proposed \$2.2M, and we are in the process of collecting this data. EG&G has collected background surficial soil data for about a dozen samples from the Rock Creek drainage to support the IAG (Operable Unit (OU) 1 Technical Memorandum #5). We will be collecting additional data for OU 2 under the Surface Soil Sampling and Analysis Plan (Technical Memorandum #7). These data should be sufficient to support the background needs of the other operable units. The central purpose behind collection of this data is to support baseline human health risk assessments for the OUs. Other objectives are to support the environmental evaluations (EEs), and for use in the assessment of remedial alternatives for the cleanup of contaminated soils from the OUs.

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I believe that the soil characterization work discussed above is sufficient to meet our basic IAG requirements. However, to move forward on this issue, I have requested Ralph Lindberg of Environmental Science and Engineering to communicate directly with Jen Pepe of your staff regarding alternatives for potential enhancements to the background soil program.

If you have further technical questions, please contact Ralph Lindberg at 966-8582. If you wish to convene a management meeting to resolve this issue, please contact Tom Greengard at 273-6073 or me at extension 8540.



Robert L. Benedetti  
Associate General Manager  
Environmental Restoration Management  
EG&G Rocky Flats

RDL:jlm

Orig. and 1 cc - R. J. Schassburger